

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

A Call To Release the Funds of the Afghan People

Oct. 11 (EIRNS)—*This call by the Schiller Institute will be distributed internationally Oct. 14, as the IMF and World Bank meet in Washington.*

Today and in the coming days, we, informed citizens of the world and patriots of our own nations, stand united, in Washington, Berlin, Lima, Paris, Rome, Buenos Aires, Copenhagen, Madrid, Stockholm, Brussels and in many other cities of the world, to expose and denounce a crime.

On August 15, after four decades of foreign interventions, a new government took power in Afghanistan. While having orientations we don't necessarily approve of, the new government has expressed its willingness to face the immediate humanitarian challenges, eradicate opium production, reconstruct Afghanistan's health system and build the basic infrastructure required to jump-start trade and development. As clearly understood by Pakistan, India, China, Russia, Turkmenistan, Iran and others, it is in the interest of all to allow the new government to stabilize the situation by engaging in normal international relations. But more is required: without a minimal foreign input, Afghanistan will fail in dealing with a deadly food and health crisis that started way before Aug. 14.

Hence, it is outrageous that in the days following the Taliban takeover, the White House announced that all assets of Afghanistan's central bank held in the U.S. would not be released to the new Afghan government:

- The U.S. Federal Reserve refuses to release the \$9.5 billion of assets of the Central Bank of Afghanistan, \$7 billion of which are held by the New York Fed. About \$1.3 billion of these are held in international accounts, with some of it in euros and British pounds, while the rest are held by the Bank for International Settlements based in Switzerland. As a result, Afghanistan can only access 0.1-0.2 % of its total reserves!

- The International Monetary Fund has suspended all financing for "lack of clarity within the international community" over recognizing the new government. \$370 million set to be released on Aug. 23 was withheld and access to the IMF's reserves in Special Drawing Rights assets, which can be converted to government-backed money, have also been blocked.

- The World Bank (as denounced by a petition of Code Pink) has refused to release some \$440 million, notably the funds required to pay Afghan teachers and health workers. Hence, while there is a huge outcry over "women's rights," 13,000 female healthcare workers, including doctors, midwives, nurses, vaccinators, and other female staff, are not being paid by the World Bank's Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF).

On Feb. 29, 2020, the Taliban and the U.S. government signed an agreement. Part III of that agreement stipulates: “The U.S.A. and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan are committed to continue positive relations, including economic cooperation for reconstruction.... The United States will refrain from the threat or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Afghanistan or intervening in its domestic affairs.”

Today, if the United States wants to regain respect and esteem, it has to live up to its own commitments, especially when millions of human lives, both female and male, are at stake, which is the case in Afghanistan as a result of a food and health crisis of apocalyptic dimensions. Two out of five Afghans, many of them children, are facing starvation.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, call on President Joe Biden to act in the spirit of the 2020 Doha agreement, signed by the U.S.A., and lift all unnecessary sanctions against Afghanistan, including the use of malign pretexts to prevent its control over the assets of its own central bank as well as its normal access to the international financial markets. The urgency is now!

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday October 12, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

LEADING DEVELOPMENTS

Taliban Urges U.S. To Release Afghanistan's Frozen Funds

Oct. 11 (EIRNS)—American and Taliban officials completed two days of talks in Doha yesterday, the first such talks between the two sides since the U.S. evacuation from Kabul was completed Aug. 31. Among the top issues raised by the Taliban was the unfreezing of about \$9 billion in Afghan funds held on U.S. Treasury orders. When asked if the issue of liberation of funds to the Central Bank of Afghanistan was raised by the Taliban

delegation during the meeting, Taliban political spokesman Suhail Shaheen said “All topics of interest are from their side and from our side. It was discussed.” The U.S. response to the Taliban request has not been reported.

Otherwise, both sides described the meeting in positive terms. “The U.S. delegation focused on security and terrorism concerns and safe passage for U.S. citizens, other foreign nationals and our Afghan partners, as well as on human rights, including the meaningful participation of women and girls in all aspects of Afghan society,” the U.S. State Department said in a statement attributed to spokesman Ned Price. “The two sides also discussed the United States’ provision of robust humanitarian assistance, directly to the Afghan people. The discussions were candid and professional with the U.S. delegation reiterating that the Taliban will be judged on its actions, not only its words.”

The Taliban said the talks held in Doha, Qatar, “went well,” with Washington freeing up humanitarian aid to Afghanistan after agreeing not to link such assistance to formal recognition of the Taliban, reported The Associated Press. Shaheen also told AP that the movement’s interim Foreign Minister Amir Kham Muttaqi, assured the United States during the talks that the Taliban are committed to seeing that Afghan soil is not used by extremists to launch attacks against other countries.

In a general statement, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said: “Detailed discussions were held during the meeting about all relevant issues. And efforts should be exerted to restore diplomatic relations to a better state,” according to Reuters. It welcomed the U.S. offer of humanitarian assistance and said local authorities would assist the aid. “Such assistance should not be linked to political issues.”

The Taliban are also looking to engage with Russia. “We are looking forward to cooperation with all countries, and foreign investment plays a significant role here. Russia is an important country in terms of economy. Afghanistan has been destroyed during the war, Russia and other countries could help to restore it. We welcome such assistance and are hoping for financial support,” Deputy Minister of Information and Culture Zabihullah

Mujahid told TASS this morning. “We seek to establish relations with all countries. First of all, we are talking about diplomatic ties, without which further cooperation is simply impossible. We are negotiating with Russia, mainly on the recognition of our government and the resumption of the work of the embassies [of the two countries]. Resolving these issues will pave the way for further cooperation,” the deputy minister remarked.

***Financial Times* Insists EU Should Punish Poles for Supreme Court Ruling on Sovereignty**

Oct. 11 (EIRNS)— The mouthpiece of the City of London’s daily, *Financial Times*, writes an editorial on Polish Supreme Court justices throwing down the gauntlet at the EU institutions on Oct. 7: “Thursday’s ruling by a top Polish court that elements of EU law are incompatible with Poland’s constitution poses a bigger challenge to the EU’s unity than Brexit. The Polish constitutional tribunal judgment is a direct attack on the EU’s legal order, which is the cement holding the EU together. The U.K. withdrew from the EU; Poland is asserting its constitutional independence while staying inside. It is corroding the union’s integrity from within.” In short, the unity of the EU is premised on the collective submission of its member states to surrender their national sovereignty to unelected Brussels Eurocrats.

As for the undetailed threats of retaliation by the EU Commission, the *FT* says: “the EU regrettably has no viable mechanism for expelling a member in serious breach of its rules. The Commission will almost certainly take legal action, threatening large fines if Poland refuses to comply.” *FT* recommends: “It must also use its financial leverage to try to pull Warsaw back into line. It is now inconceivable that Brussels would approve Poland’s application for €36 billion in pandemic recovery funds. It also has grounds to freeze other payments. Poland is due to receive €121 billion in EU development aid by 2027. Taxpayers elsewhere are asking why they should support a country that no longer recognizes club rules.... Poles will pay the price for government fanaticism”!

The EU has already frozen planned payments of €23.9 billion to Poland. Nor should the irony of London's *Financial Times* dictating policy to Brussels should be lost on anyone.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Insanity of Speculative Energy Spot Markets

Oct. 11 (EIRNS)—The spot markets are not a normal exchange for gas, oil and electricity that seeks a balance between offers and demands, but it is a monster that is leveraging prices projected into a speculative future. Only this way, it was possible that the megawatt-hour price of electricity doubled in the week from Sept. 30 when it was €220 to Oct. 7, when it reached €450. Half a year ago, the highest average was €100 euros.

The average price now is €320 in the United Kingdom, €307 in Italy, €306 in Germany. Poland and Romania have the lowest prices of €200—due to the efficiency of coal power, which still dominates there and constitutes a certain independence from the spot markets. In the case of Poland, what contributed to this independence is the big lignite mining complex at Turow, which the EU insists be closed, lest Poland would have to pay a fine of €500,000/day. Poland defied this ruling, its first clear sign that it would not back down to EU arm-twisting.

The inefficiency of the German march into unreliable renewables has, by the way, in the past nine months seen a steady increase of the coal share of its national energy mix, the much-disliked coal being what has prevented a blackout for Germany so far.

COVID AND FAMINE

Only 11% of Africa Fully Vaccinated against Deadly COVID

Oct. 11 (EIRNS)—Aside from the sparsely-populated island (tourist) havens of Seychelles, Mauritius and Cape Verde, [Africa](#) is still struggling to both acquire and distribute Covid vaccines. The two most densely

populated countries— Nigeria and Ethiopia—have just over 3% of their populations covered.

GREEN NEW DEAL

India Now Near Blackouts for Lack of Coal

Oct. 11 (EIRNS)—Calling it “a man-made crisis,” Delhi’s Power Minister Satyendra Jain said that more than half of India’s 135 coal-fired power plants, which supply around 70% of the country’s electricity, have only three days’ stock of coal, not the normally required one-month supply. In Delhi, he said, supplies have come down to one day. “If coal supply doesn’t improve, there will be a blackout in Delhi in two days,” Jain said Oct. 9.

Delhi’s Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Oct. 9 warned of a looming power crisis in the Indian capital of 20 million people due to coal shortages. There have already been power cuts in some Indian states in the east and north. “Delhi could face a power crisis,” Kejriwal tweeted. “I am personally keeping a close watch over the situation.” In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared on social media, Kejriwal said coal shortages had continued for three consecutive months, putting pressure on gas-fired power stations that also did not have adequate fuel.

Demand for industrial power has surged in India after the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Coal consumption has gone up—that is, it has almost returned to pre-pandemic levels. This is a crisis because of the lack of investment in coal production worldwide under “green finance” pressure.

‘Pandora Papers’ Claim First Two Victims, First Victory for Green Fascism

Oct. 11 (EIRNS)—Two heads of government who were opponents of EU green austerity mandates and proponents of nuclear war were knocked out of office by the “Pandora Papers” scandal this weekend. Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš’s party was outvoted by a coalition of right-wing parties featuring the one that started the confrontation with Russia over an

ammunition warehouse explosion in Vrbětice in 2014. When Czech President Milos Zeman appeared ready to ask Babiš to form a government anyway, since the latter's party was the top vote-getter as an individual party, Zeman was suddenly rushed to a hospital in unknown condition for unknown reasons. He is now listed in stable condition, for an undisclosed but chronic condition. And in Austria, Prime Minister Sebastian Kurz was forced to resign by a "Pandora Papers" scandal.

Many foundations will pay for "unconventional" means of shutting down nuclear plants or preventing them from being built, waving the banners of Malthusian genocide.

On an international level, nations which were holdouts against the "global minimum corporate tax" pushed by Janet Yellen's U.S. Treasury quickly fell into line late last week, allowing this scheme to be prepared for adoption at the G20 meeting this week and then as a UN convention. *EIR* has exposed the prominent holes in this scheme before: City of London and Wall Street financial companies are not subject to the 15% minimum corporate tax; there'll be no attempt to enforce this tax against "London offshore"; and the U.K. and European nations will drop their "online transaction fees" so that the IT giants are as free of sales taxes in Europe as they have always been in the United States.

Remember that London (with "London offshore") dominates secret trusts and tax evasions. "The Tax Justice Network blames the U.K. and its controlled network of satellite jurisdictions for aggressively undermining the ability of governments around the world to meaningfully tax multinational corporations. The network said Britain has 'single-handedly done the most to break down the global corporate tax system, accounting for over a third of the world's corporate tax avoidance risks,' " reported International Investment, in May 2019.

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

AIDData Report Documents Immensity of China's 20-Year 'BRI' Transformation

Oct. 11 (EIRNS)—A new report has been released which, although not its primary intent, serves to document the sheer scope of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) outreach program since 2000. Produced by [AIDData](#)—a collaboration between the geopoliticians at the USAID and number-crunchers at Virginia's William and Mary College—the 165-page report provides an exhaustive documentation of 13,427 Chinese development projects across 165 countries, valued at \$843 billion, in every major world region over an 18-year period.

Reduced to five bullet points, the researchers “document an extraordinary expansion in China's overseas development program during the first two decades of the 21st century ... with annual development finance commitments hovering around \$85 billion a year. China now outspends the U.S. and other major powers on a 2-to-1 basis or more.”

As with most of these reports, the (often clearly stated) intent is to divine “just how does China do it,” with the subtext: They must be cheating, somehow. In this case, AIDData researchers claim that the years around 2000, “marked an important transition in how China bankrolls infrastructure projects,” shifting away from central government institutions, toward “state-owned companies,” and other institutions whose debts were *not carried on the national budget*. Implying a nefarious motive behind this change, the authors claim that the full burden of debt is “approximately” \$385 billion greater than what is officially on the books, or 5.8% of lesser-developed countries' GDP.

Finally, the report documents “that 35% of the BRI infrastructure project portfolio has encountered major implementation problems—such as corruption scandals, labor violations, environmental hazards, and public protests,” as if this were some unique finding. Check any Western infrastructure proposal over the last 20 years, and you will likely find a similar, or greater percentage of complaints and even greater success in

stopping the projects from being built. In the 1800, there were probably New York farmers who objected to the Erie Canal going through their fields.

The difference—in the U.S. then, and China today—is that the naysayers were pushed aside, and the progress of mankind was put first and foremost.

Successful Schiller Institute Afghanistan Seminar in Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 11 (EIRNS)—Today, the Schiller Institute in Denmark held a successful seminar entitled, “[Afghanistan: What Now? Peace through Economic Development](#).” The audio recording of the speeches, which were in English, is available. The videorecording of the presentations and an edited version of the discussion will be posted shortly. The speakers were:

Hussein Askary, the Schiller Institute’s Southwest Asia Coordinator, and board member of the Belt and Road Institute in Sweden. Askary spoke about the potential for the Schiller Institute peace through economic development to become reality for Afghanistan and the world, after the collapse of the old system of permanent wars. One point he stressed was that it would be a disaster if the western governments would continue to freeze Afghanistan’s assets, and withhold their aid in the reconstruction of Afghanistan only to prove that the Taliban were incapable of leading the nation.

Prof. Pino Arlacchi, (Executive Director of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (1997-2002) (who negotiated an almost total elimination of opium production with the Taliban before 2001), and former EU Rapporteur on Afghanistan. Currently professor of Sociology at the School of Political Science of the University of Sassari in Italy. Prof. Arlacchi spoke about how he successfully negotiated an elimination of opium production in Afghanistan before 2001, why the U.S. did not continue that policy after the start of the war, what should be done now to eliminate the opium production and what the role of the western countries should be towards Afghanistan, including recognizing the new government.

H.E. Ahmad Farooq, Ambassador of Pakistan to Kingdom of Denmark: Ambassador in Denmark since April 2020. 2013-2016: Counsellor/Alternate Permanent Representative of Pakistan at the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the Rome-based UN Agencies, Rome. 2010-2013: Counsellor Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, New York. Member of Pakistan's Security Council team during Pakistan's membership of the UN Security Council from 2012 to 2013. 2018-2020: Director General (Counter Terrorism) dealing with counter terrorism at the United Nations and other multilateral forums. 2016-2018 and 2008-2010: Director United Nations, dealing with UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, Counter Terrorism, UN Peacekeeping and other political and peace and security issues. Ambassador Farooq spoke about the complex relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan, how the Afghanistan situation has affected Pakistan, and the need for a geo-economic strategy, as called for by the Pakistani prime minister.

The moderator was **Tom Gillesberg**: Chairman of the Schiller Institute in Denmark, Bureau Chief for *Executive Intelligence Review* in Copenhagen. Gillesberg commented on the Danish participation in the war and what the Danish and other coalition governments ought to do now.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche sent a message to the seminar announcing that the Schiller Institute would have a day of action on Thursday, Oct. 14 to stop the freeze of Afghan assets, calling on other forces to join.

With only two weeks of organizing, the attendees included five embassies (from Southwest Asia, North Africa and Asia) and members of the Schiller Institute, filling the small meeting room for the first physical meeting since COVID-19. In addition, there was a live Zoom stream, with people from Asia, Southwest Asia, Africa and Europe.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Only Productive Investment Can Bring Back Shrinking U.S. Labor Force

Oct. 11 (EIRNS)—The September U.S. jobs was reported as having marked a “stall” in an ostensible recovery from the 2020 “pandemic” collapse; but it actually showed something far worse: The civilian labor force had shrunk by 1.4 million since early summer, and the number of Americans in the “civilian non-institutionalized population” who were out of the labor force had gone for the first time to 100.5 million. That’s 10 million more labor force dropouts than in the 2008 financial crash. The Americans out of the labor force rose by 175,000 in September alone.

Underlying this shrinkage is the most fundamental U.S. economic fact: No new productive employment of any kind, created since the breakdown began with the September 2019 “repo crisis” and the Fed began QE5. The terrific pace of money printing since then—driving Federal Reserve assets from \$3.75 trillion to the present \$8.5 trillion in two years; combined with \$5 trillion in Treasury funds for “COVID relief” of various kinds, has inundated an economy with no new productive employment, to trigger runaway inflation. The only legislation in years that might have added some construction and engineering employment, the pending “bipartisan infrastructure bill,” has been deliberately postponed by the Democratic majority in Congress, looking for \$3.5 trillion more “household aid” first.

In an irony created by the Green New Deal’s failure, U.S.-based coal companies are now unable to find miners to hire to meet the resurging demand for coal ([“U.S. Coal Mines Are Running Out of Miners Just as Demand Booms”](#)). “ ‘There’s a perception that the coal industry, if not dead, is dying,’ Ernie Thrasher, chief executive officer of Xcoal Energy & Resources LLC, a Pennsylvania coal trader that works with several suppliers, said. ‘Young people just have many more choices’.”

There’s selling marijuana, up 80,000 jobs this year. There’s home healthcare, up 90,000. And There’s staying out of the workforce, up 900,000 in 2020 so far.